

University Reader
大学生读书计划



叶圣陶小说散文选

Selected Stories and Prose

by Ye Shengtao

English-Chinese · Gems of Chinese Literature · *Modern*

英汉对照 · 中国文学宝库 · 现代文学系列

叶圣陶 著
Ye Shengtao

中国文学出版社
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编委会(以姓氏笔划为序)

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大学生读书计划

——中国文学宝库出版呼吁

在即将开机印刷这第一批 50 本名为中国文学宝库的英汉对照读本时，我们的心情竟然忧多于喜。因为我们只能以保守的 5000 册印数，去面对全国 400 万在校大学生。

虽然我们并非市场经济的局外者，若仅为印数（销售量）计，大可奋起而去生产诸如 TOFEL 应试指南，或者英语四六级模拟试题集一类的教辅图书，但我们还是决定宁可冒着债台高筑的风险，也有责任对大学生同胞发出一声亲切的呼唤：请亲近我们的中国文学。

身为向世界译介中国文学和向国内出版外语读物的，具有双重责任的出版社，我们得知目前大学生往往仅注重外语的学习而偏废了母语的提高，以及忽视了中国文学的阅读，放弃了人文知识的训练。有统计表明，某理工院校 57% 的同学不曾读过《红楼梦》等四大名著，以致校园内外流行着“样子像研究生，说话像大学生，作文像中学生，写字像小学生”的幽默。还有一副这样的对联，说大学生的文章是“无错不成文，病句错句破残句，句句不堪入目；有误方为篇，别字错字自造字，字字触目惊心”，横批“斯文扫地”。作为未来社会中坚和整个社会发展关键力量的大学生，这种“文弃”现象的流行，势必导致一场人文精神危机的爆发。对照以科学与人文精神追求为主题的五四新文化运动，八十年的历程告诉我们，以上提醒绝非危言耸听。

我们已经迈入知识经济时代，在追求科学知识的同时，创新精神已成为关键；而创新的源泉其实有赖于多学科多领域知识的交融，依靠的是新型的复合型人才，所以，文学对于新一代

的大学生来说绝非装点,而是沟通自然科学与人文科学的桥梁,使我们在汲取知识的同时更能获得智慧,于创造物质的同时还进一步丰富和完善着精神;无怪乎爱因斯坦认为自己受影响最大的竟是陀思妥耶夫斯基。由此证明,一个真正的科学家应该拥有丰富的文学和文化知识以及完整的人格。十年前,七十五位诺贝尔奖得主聚会巴黎,当时他们所发表的宣言开篇就是,“如果人类要在21世纪生存下去,必须回首2500年去吸收孔子的智慧。”确实,十年的时间让我们有目共睹,现代经济科技的飞速发展何尝不是一柄双刃的剑?只有文化的力量才能抵消随之而来的负面后果。可见,知识的获取与技能的训练对于大学生来说固然重要,但文化与修养却尤需关切。正因为大学生代表着社会先知先觉的知识力量,置身当前的文化现实,就应有一分责任感与使命感,力求对知识技能以外许多带有根本性质的精神追求形成明确的意识,从而具备一种对生命意义进行探索与追问的精神,一种以人文精神为背景的生存勇气和人格力量。那么,能够引导我们探索前行的一盏明灯,不就是闪烁着理想光芒的不朽的文学名著吗?

一个人乃至一个民族,从其对文学的亲疏态度,可以衡量出其文化素质的程度。文学应是从人类文化中升华出的理想的结晶,她“使人的心灵变得高尚,使人的勇气、荣誉感、希望、尊严、同情心、怜悯心和牺牲精神复活起来”(威廉·福克纳);无疑,只有文学才能从更高的层次上提升人的文化素质和整体素质,充实人的内心世界,焕发人的精神风貌,带给人们真善美。而亲近文学,特别是热爱祖国灿烂的文学以及文化,正是当代中国大学生加强文化修养,弘扬人文精神的有力脚步。

“越是民族的,就越是世界的”,中国文学属于中国,也属于世界。和平是人类的共同愿望,交流与共享则是新世纪的潮流。

中国当代大学生的血液里流动着数千年的文化积淀，没有理由在让世界了解中国大学生聪明才智的同时，却无缘分享我们的骄傲——中国大学生不但能够读懂英语的莎士比亚，而且能让世界感动于中国文学的伟大。

这是我们作为出版者的理想。我们原有一个世纪礼物的构想，是同大学生一起做一个“读书计划”。这一次将中国文学的最新荟萃配设高水平的英语译文，是其中推荐给新世纪大学生的第一批读物。盼望着您——我们无数知音中的5000名先来者，给我们鼓励，也给我们意见和批评。

编者

一九九九年五月三十日

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A Life

Village born she was never waited on or made up, never taught the feudal precepts for women or the bourgeois ideas of equality and freedom. She was indeed a very simple creature.

After leaving her mother's womb, by the time she was able to walk and talk she helped her parents glean paddy stalks and pluck herbs. At fifteen they married her off. For sooner or later she would belong to some other family anyway, and each extra year they kept her meant the cost of an extra year's food, clothing and so on. Better, then, get her off their hands early to save themselves trouble and expense simply to enrich other people.

Her husband's family had so much field work that they needed to hire help. Even if this new daughter-in-law couldn't save them taking on a hired hand, she was worth half an ox to them. In less than a year, to her bewilderment, she gave birth to a son; for it seemed to her only yesterday that she had slept in her mother's arms, and now here she was holding a baby of her own. He had no cradle, no snug clothes, no airy, sunny nursery, and it was only at night that he could enjoy sleeping in her arms; by day he slept in a dark corner of the room. In less than six months he died. She cried and cried as if her heart would break. Her mother-in-law accused her of not knowing how to look after children and inveighed against her for causing the death of a perfectly good grandson. Her father-in-law

一 生

伊生在农家，没有享过“呼婢唤女”“傅粉施朱”的福气，也没有受过“三从四德”“自由平等”的教训，简直是很简单的一个动物。伊自出母胎，生长到会说话会行动的时候，就帮着父母拾些稻稿，挑些野菜。到了十五岁，伊父母便把伊嫁了。因为伊早晚总是别人家的人，多留一年，便多破费一年的穿吃零用，倒不如早早把伊嫁了，免得白掷了自己的心思财力，替人家长财产。伊夫家呢，本来田务忙碌，要雇人帮助，如今把伊娶了，即不能省一个帮佣，也抵得半条耕牛。伊嫁了不上一年，就生了个孩子，伊也莫名其妙，只觉得自己睡在母亲怀里还是昨天的事，如今自己是抱孩儿的人了。伊的孩子没有摇篮睡，没有柔软的衣服穿，没有清气阳光充足的地方住，连睡在伊的怀里也只有晚上睡觉的时候才得享受，白天只睡在黑魆魆的屋角里。不到半岁，他就死了。伊哭得不可开交，只觉以前从没这么伤心过。伊婆婆说伊不会领小孩，好好一个孙儿被伊糟蹋死了，实在可恨。伊公公说

英汉对照

English-Chinese

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swore that his line would die out — she was too ill-starred to rear children. Her husband merely remarked that he didn't care if ten sons died, if only it would bring him luck in gambling. She didn't try to fathom what they meant, simply crying from morning till night.

One day she made a strange discovery. When she opened her chest to take out the blue cotton-padded clothes that were part of her dowry, she found they had disappeared. Later, her husband when drunk told her he had pawned them. Winter came very quickly. The west wind chilled people to the bone. She screwed up her courage to beg him to get her clothes out of hock. For that he boxed her ears a couple of times. She was used to his knocking her about, which always reduced her to tears.

Today when she wept her mother-in-law snapped, "Crying? Want to drown us all in your tears?"

That made her sob still more loudly. In a rage her mother-in-law snatched up the pestle for washing clothes and thwacked her back several times. For good measure her husband gave her two more slaps.

This was more than she could bear. The thought of tomorrow and the day after . . . the future . . . filled her with fearful dismay. The next morning before it was light, she slipped out of the house while luckily her husband was still asleep. The west wind was like a knife and stung her face. Never mind, it hurt less than his beatings. She hurried a dozen *li* without stopping for breath till she came to the river bank, then waited for the passenger boat to town.

When finally the boat came, she went aboard. The passengers all

伊命硬，招不牢子息，怎不绝了他一门的嗣。伊丈夫却没别的话说，只说要是在赌场里百战百胜，便死十个儿子也不关他事。伊听了也不去想这些话是什么意思，只是朝晚地哭。

有一天伊发见了新奇的事了：开开板箱，那嫁时的几件青布大袄不知那里去了。后来伊丈夫喝醉了，自己说是他当掉的。冬天来得很快，几阵西风吹得人彻骨地冷。伊大着胆央求丈夫把青布袄赎回来，却吃了两个巴掌。原来伊吃丈夫的巴掌早经习以为常，惟一的了局便是哭。这一天伊又哭了。伊婆婆喊道，“再哭？一家人家给你哭完了！”伊听了更不住地哭。婆婆动了怒，拉起捣衣的杵在伊背上抽了几下。伊丈夫还加上两个巴掌。

这一番伊吃得苦太重了。想到明天，后天，……将来，不由得害怕起来。第二天朝晨，天还没亮透，伊轻轻地走了出来，私幸伊丈夫还没醒。西风像刀，吹到脸上很痛，但是伊觉得比吃丈夫的巴掌痛得轻些，也就满足了。一口气跑了十几里路，到了一条河边，才停了脚步。这条河里是有航船经过的。

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seemed to have sixth sense: they saw at a glance that she had run away from home because she had been badly treated.

"You've only yourself to blame if you make your in-laws angry," they told her. "Even if they treat you shabbily, a young wife has to put up with such things. If you're so temperamental and touchy, so much the worse for you! Besides, who can you turn to now that you've run away? You'd better go back with this boat."

She didn't answer, just hanging her head in silence.

In exasperation one of the passengers said, "Who knows what she's up to? She may be eloping."

The others roared with laughter, but she paid no attention.

On reaching town she found an employment agent who got her a job as a servant. A new life began for her. Though she was on the go all day long, it was less tiring than farming, and as no one scolded her, cursed her or beat her, she thought herself extremely well off and wished she could stay there for ever. It was only when she woke at night from dreams of her dead baby that she felt unhappy.

One day while out shopping, to her consternation she met a neighbour from her husband's village. As a result, in less than three days her father-in-law came to find her.

"Run away, would you?" he bellowed. "Now I've tracked you down you won't get away again. If you've any sense, come back with me at once!"

She dared not answer but rushed indoors to cower motionless behind her mistress.

The latter called her father-in-law in and said, "Your daughter-in-law's made a contract to work here. It isn't up yet — so how can

等了好久，航船经过了，伊就上了船。那些乘客好似个个会催眠术的，一见了伊，便知道是在家里受了气，私自逃走的。他们对伊说道，“总是你自己没长进，才使家里人和你生气。即使他们委屈了你，你是年幼小娘，总该忍耐一二。这么使性子，碰不起，苦还有得吃！况且如今逃了出去，靠傍谁呢？不如趁原船回去罢。”伊听了不答应，只低着头不响。众客便有些不耐烦。一个道，“不知伊想的什么心思，论不定还约下了汉子同走！”众人便嘲笑起来。伊也不去管他们。

伊进了城，寻到一家荐头。荐头把伊荐到一家人家当佣妇。伊的新生活从此开始了：虽也是一天到晚地操作，却没下田耕作这么费力，又没人说伊，骂伊，打伊，便觉得眼前的境地非常舒服，永远不愿更换了。伊惟一的不快，就是夜半梦醒时思念伊已死的孩子。

一天，伊到市上买东西，遇见一个人，心里就老大不自在，这个人村里的邻居。不到三天，就发生影响了：伊公公已寻了来。开口便嚷道，“你会逃，如今寻到了，可再能逃？你若是乖觉的，快跟我回去！”伊听了不敢开口，奔到里面，伏在主妇的背后，只是发呆。主妇便唤伊公公进来对他说，“你媳妇为我家帮佣，此刻约期还没满，怎能去？”伊公公无可辩论，只得狠狠地

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she leave?"

Stumped by this he surlily ordered his daughter-in-law, "As soon as your time's up, come back! If you run away again we won't have you back. We'll sell you wherever you are or break your legs!"

So this place where she had felt so comfortable, would in no time be an illusion — how could she bear it? She dreaded the thought of the future. For the next few days her eyes were swollen, she couldn't eat, couldn't work. Her master, now that he knew the circumstances, thought it shouldn't be hard according to the new law to get her a divorce.

He asked her, "Do you want to break with your husband's family?"

"Of course I do!" she said.

Thereupon he drafted a petition for her, clearly stating the facts of her case and her request for a divorce, meaning to present this to the magistrate.

His wife, however, demurred, "Of course it's good to get her a divorce. But she may not be working for us all her life. Suppose she leaves us and nobody hires her, what's to become of her? By rights, her own family should take her in, but can they manage it?"

That made him less eager to take up the cudgels for her. "It can't be helped then," he said.

A few days later her father arrived, sent by her father-in-law.

Her mistress asked, "Have you any way to rescue your daughter?"

"Since she's married into their family, it's up to them if they want to beat her or curse her," he answered. "What can I do about it?"